

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on
August 25, 2009 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact me at Westfield City Services Building (317) 804-3002 if you have any questions. -TBH

August 25, 2009

Agenda

I. Announcements

II. Parks Department 5 Year Plan

III. Legislative Committee Update

IV. Budget 2010 Presentation

V. Closing Announcements

VI. New Homestead Deduction Information

I. Announcements

Grand Junction Derby

The Inaugural Grand Junction Derby was a success. The Derby will be back next year. It will be better with everything learned from this year. See the [slideshow](#) on the City site to see some great pictures!

DWNA Farmer's Market Survey

The Downtown Westfield Neighborhood Association is looking for ways to improve the farmer's market which takes place each Friday from 4-8pm at "Red Man Park" on Main Street. Please [click here](#) to give us your input... it will only take a minute or so.

Fall (and Spring) Leaf and Brush Program

Ray's is offering a Fall (and Spring) Leaf and Brush Program for the City of Westfield residents. The cost is \$15 for weekly pickup of leaf and brush from October 19th through December 4th. Please see the [brochure](#) for more details. It is available on the City site and will also be in your September water bill as an insert.

Here are some additional clarifications from the questions at the meeting.

Q: Can the leaves be put in the paper grocery bags or do they have to buy special ones?

A: Residents do have to by the special paper bags that are biodegradable. To give you an idea of price, a package of five 30 gallon bags (approx. 50lbs) at Menard's costs \$1.79 and is up to \$2.99 at Target.

Q: Can clubhouses apply for the program?

A: Ray's can treat the clubhouses as a residence; however, it seems more reasonable for whoever does the cleanup to put it out with their leaf pick up within the limitations.

II. Parks Department 5 Year Plan

Melody, the Parks Department Director came to WeCAN to find out what opportunities would residents like to see in the parks. Completing the 5 Year Park Plan and having it formally accepted would open the Parks Department up to more grant opportunities.

There are currently three parks departments in Westfield: Hamilton County Parks, Washington Township Parks, and City of Westfield Parks. Westfield's advantages are its linear parks (the trails that run through Westfield). Also, Westfield has a lot of space, developed and undeveloped. Many of the trails are developed with no tax dollars because of donations.

It was suggested that a complete inventory of parks and trails be made available (on the web as well as an updated brochure) prior to any search for input.

Now is also the time to think about what locations would be desirable for future projects so we can set land aside for future development.

There will still be a formal process for public input but everyone is encouraged to think about what types of recreation they would like to have in Westfield. Thinking "outside the box" is encouraged.

Some initial suggestions about recreation types were Public Fishing Ponds (possibly in the grand junction area), a bark park (dog play area), Shooting range (due to the demand on the Northside), and a YMCA (which has already been looking at several sites).

Another suggestion was to have access to park and trail maps on mobile phones.

Please hold on to your ideas until the formal process begins early next year.

III. Legislation Committee Update

Survey

The Legislation Committee has prepared a [survey](#) for all neighborhoods to fill out. The survey is very brief and will give the committee insight to which problem areas to focus their efforts. The survey was modified at the WeCAN Meeting to clarify some items. If you have any questions about the survey or Legislation Committee, please email Ron at ron.rothrock@gotown.net.

Central Indiana Chapter of Community Association (CAI)

Ron Rothrock attended the CAI Conference that was held on August 22, 2009 at the Marriott Indianapolis North, Indianapolis. There were 31 exhibitors from art to wildlife rescue and everything in between concerning associations. Two breakout sessions were available for "The essential for condominium & homeowner associations: budgeting reserves & risk management" or "boot camp for board members-the key to a one hour board meeting" or "greening your community". The Keynote speaker covered "managing during an economic downturn".

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'Greening you community' can consist of using a mulching mower, turn off water while brushing teeth (saves 5000 g/yr), caulking around windows and doors, IYWDIDDI - if you won't drink it, don't dump it, use the CFL light bulbs. And for the community, use motion sensor in parking lot lights and use occupancy sensors in pool house.

'One hour board meetings' had some real eye-openers, such as it is not a social gathering, create a timed agenda and stick to it. A really big enabler to that is to send all material out *before* the meeting and have each member read it *before* the meetings. Don't waste time reading the material during the meeting. Use committees and have the committees prepare reports that are sent out *before* the meeting. And start *on time*! And coming in September is '12 common mistakes boards make and how to avoid them'.

'Managing thru an economic downturn' had sobering observations presented. Even though we have foreclosures/abandonments/abated cash flow, we must continue to manage. Working with a diminished cash flow is a big problem. We need to communicate with our residents in a truthful manner because what we really need to do is to prioritize what is essential to keep open. And we need to be more realistic in budget planning.

Having 31 vendors in a single room gave me an opportunity to either talk with them or to gather brochures and literature for looking at later.

Solicitor's Permit Information

Due to the [ordinance amendment](#) passed on Monday, August 24, solicitors in Westfield must possess an ID card that is obtained from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. School children and churches, and others listed in the ordinance are exempt from paying the fee but must still register with the Clerk's Office. If someone does solicit in your neighborhood and does not have an ID card on them, you can contact:

During business hours: Clerk's Office 804-3020

Outside business hours: Police dispatch 773-1300

Also, if "No Soliciting" is posted on a home, business, or neighborhood entrance, it must be obeyed, even if the solicitor has a permit. The solicitors are instructed of the provision when they obtain the permit.

Please refer to the ordinance or Clerk-Treasurer's Office if you have any additional questions about the permit.

IV. Budget 2010 Presentation

Please [click here](#) to view the presentation. The Introduction of the 2010 Budget was presented at the City Council Meeting on August 10th. The Public Hearing was on August 24th - One person spoke in favor of the budget and no one spoke in opposition of the budget at the public hearing. The adoption consideration will be at the next City Council Meeting on September 14th.

V. Closing Announcements

Next WeCAN Meeting: Tuesday, September 29

Sports Complex

The Council approved the idea of the Sports Complex and sent it on to the Plan Commission. The kinds of sports facilities, where the complex should be and who should run it have not been decided yet. At the September meeting of WeCAN, we will discuss what types of sports and activities would you and your residents like to see represented.

If you have questions/suggestions, please email Tammy at tblackburn@westfield.in.gov.
Thank you!

VI. New Homestead Deduction Information

Everyone Must Re-File Homestead before the end of 2010 in order to get the deductions on their property tax bill. The information will be in the tax bills sent in 2010 but your convenience you can file while the assessor still has a local office.

The Hamilton County Commissioners have decided to move the Washington Township Assessor's Office by the end of 2009. We will be moved to the basement of the Judicial Building in Noblesville. This move will be an inconvenience to all of us but has been determined to be necessary as a cost-saving measure.

Although we are being relocated, this office will continue to serve all Washington Township/ Westfield City residents and businesses as we have in the past.

I would also like to take this opportunity to notify your neighborhoods about the new legislation regarding the homestead credit. Beginning July 1, 2009, new legislation requires the last 5 digits of the Social Security numbers and the last 5 digits of an Indiana Driver's license or legal ID card numbers when filing for homestead credit. **The requirements apply for all persons on the deed.**

If you would like to re-file for the homestead with the new ID requirements while we are still conveniently located, please gather your information and visit our office. We are available to process homesteads from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you have questions or need directions, please call 867-2831.

Please share this information in your newsletters if you have them so that as many taxpayers as possible can be notified of the move and of the new legislation.

Thank you,
Jerolyn Ogle
jerolyn.ogle@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
317-867-2831